Branching ratios of the pseudoscalar glueball with a mass of 2.6 GeV

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We consider a $N_f = 3$ chiral Lagrangian which describes the interaction between the pseudoscalar glueball, $J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$, and scalar and pseudoscalar mesons. We calculate the decay widths of the pseudoscalar glueball, where we fixed its mass to 2.6 GeV, as predicted by lattice QCD simulations, and take a closer look in the scalar-isoscalar decaying channel. We present our results as branching ratios which are relevant for the future PANDA experiment at the FAIR facility.

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1. Introduction

Glueballs are hypothetical strongly interacting particles. They are made of gluons, the gauge bosons of Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD). The reason for the expectation of such fundamental objects in the nature is the nonabelian structure of QCD. In this context the study of glueballs is an important field of research in hadronic physics, relevant for the understanding of the structure of some experimentally verified resonances and the phenomenological description of low-energy QCD, see Ref. [1] and references therein.

Lattice QCD calculations predict a complete glueball spectrum [2], where the third lightest glueball, which is investigated in this work, is a pseudoscalar state ($J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$) with a mass of about 2.6 GeV. We study the decays of this pseudoscalar glueball, denoted as $\tilde{G} \equiv gg$, into three pseudoscalar mesons, $\tilde{G} \to PPP$, and a pseudoscalar and a scalar meson, $\tilde{G} \to PS$.

The effective chiral Lagrangian introduced in Refs. [3, 4, 5] contains the relevant tree-level vertices necessary for evaluating the corresponding decay widths. Due to the assignment issue of the bare scalar-isoscalar states, and their mixing which generates the resonances $f_0(1370)$, $f_0(1500)$ and $f_0(1710)$, e.g. Refs. [6, 7, 8, 9], we consider the decays of the pseudoscalar glueball $\tilde{G}$ into η and η', respectively and a scalar-isoscalar in more detail. Our numerical results are given as branching ratios in order to present a parameter free prediction of our approach.

The PANDA experiment at the FAIR facility in Darmstadt is currently under construction and will use an 1.5 GeV antiproton beam hitting a proton target at rest [10]. Therefore a centre of mass energy higher than $\sim$2.5 GeV will be reached and the 2.6 GeV pseudoscalar glueball can be directly produced as an intermediate state [4].

2. The chiral Lagrangian

The interaction between the pseudoscalar glueball $\tilde{G} \equiv gg$ with the quantum numbers $J^{PC} = 0^{-+}$ and the ordinary scalar and pseudoscalar mesons is described by the Lagrangian [3, 4, 11]:

$$\mathscr{L}_{\tilde{G}}^{int} = i c_{\tilde{G}\Phi} \tilde{G} \left(\det\Phi - \det\Phi^\dagger \right), \tag{2.1}$$

where $c_{\tilde{G}\Phi}$ is a coupling constant and Φ is a multiplet containing the ordinary scalar and pseudoscalar mesons. In this study we consider three flavours, $N_f = 3$, thus $c_{\tilde{G}\Phi}$ is dimensionless and the multiplet Φ reads [9]:

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(\sigma_N + a_0^0) + i(\eta_N + \pi^0)}{\sqrt{2}} & a_0^+ + i\pi^+ & K_S^+ + iK^+ \\ a_0^- + i\pi^- & \frac{(\sigma_N - a_0^0) + i(\eta_N - \pi^0)}{\sqrt{2}} & K_S^0 + iK^0 \\ K_S^- + iK^- & \bar{K}_S^0 + i\bar{K}^0 & \sigma_S + i\eta_S \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.2}$$

As discussed in Refs. [3, 4, 5], let us briefly consider the symmetries of the effective Lagrangian (2.1). The pseudoscalar glueball $\tilde{G}$ is made of gluons and is therefore chirally invariant. The multiplet Φ transforms under the chiral symmetry as $\Phi \to U_L \Phi U_R^\dagger$, where $U_{L(R)} = e^{-i\theta_{L(R)}^a t^a}$ is an element of $U(3)_{L(R)}$. Performing these transformations on the determinant of Φ it is easy to prove that this object is invariant under $SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$, but not under the axial $U_A(1)$ transformation:

$$\det\Phi \to \det U_A \Phi U_A = e^{-i\theta_A^0 \sqrt{2N_f}} \det\Phi \neq \det\Phi. \tag{2.3}$$

This is in agreement with the chiral anomaly. Consequently the effective Lagrangian (2.1) possesses only the $SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$ symmetry. Further essential symmetries of the strong interacting matter are the parity $\mathscr{P}$ and charge conjugation $\mathscr{C}$. The pseudoscalar glueball and the multiplet Φ transform under parity as

$$\tilde{G}(t,\vec{x}) \rightarrow -\tilde{G}(t,-\vec{x}) \,, \; \Phi(t,\vec{x}) \rightarrow \Phi^\dagger(t,-\vec{x}) \,, \tag{2.4}$$

and under charge conjugation as

$$\tilde{G} \rightarrow \tilde{G} \,, \; \Phi \rightarrow \Phi^T \,. \tag{2.5}$$

Performing these discrete transformations $\mathscr{P}$ and $\mathscr{C}$ on the effective Lagrangian (2.1) leave it unchanged. In conclusion, one can say that the symmetries of the effective Lagrangian (2.1) are in agreement with the symmetries of the QCD Lagrangian.

Let us now consider the assignment of the ordinary mesonic d.o.f. in Eq. (2.1) or (2.2). In the pseudoscalar sector we assign the fields $\vec{\pi}$ and K to the physical pion isotriplet and the kaon isodoublet [12]. The bare quark-antiquark fields $\eta_N \equiv (\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d)/\sqrt{2}$ and $\eta_S \equiv \bar{s}s$ are the nonstrange and strange mixing contributions of the physical states η and η' [9]. In the effective Lagrangian (2.1) there exist a mixing between the bare pseudoscalar glueball $\tilde{G}$ and the both bare fields η_N and η_S, but, due to the large mass difference between the pseudoscalar glueball and the pseudoscalar quark-antiquark fields, it turns out that its mixing is very small and is therefore negligible. In the scalar sector the field $\vec{a}_0$ corresponds to the physical isotriplet state $a_0(1450)$ and the scalar kaon field K_S to the physical isodoublet state $K_0^\star(1430)$ [12]. The field $\sigma_N \equiv (\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d)/\sqrt{2}$ is the bare nonstrange isoscalar field and it corresponds to the resonance $f_0(1370)$ [9, 13]. The field $\sigma_S \equiv \bar{s}s$ is the bare strange isoscalar field and the debate about its assignment to a physical state is still ongoing; in a first approximation it can be assigned to the resonance $f_0(1710)$ [9] or $f_0(1500)$ [13]. (Scalars below 1 GeV are predominantly tetraquarks or mesonic molecular states, see Refs. [14, 15] and references therein, and are not considered here). In order to properly take into account mixing effects in the scalar-isoscalar sector, we have also used the results of Refs. [7, 13]. The mixing takes the form:

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_0(1370) \\ f_0(1500) \\ f_0(1710) \end{pmatrix} = B \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_N \equiv \bar{n}n = (\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d)/\sqrt{2} \\ G \equiv gg \\ \sigma_S \equiv \bar{s}s \end{pmatrix} , \tag{2.6}$$

where B is an orthogonal (3×3) matrix and $G \equiv gg$ a scalar glueball field which is absent in this study.

In accordance with the spontaneous breaking of the chiral symmetry we shift the scalar-isoscalar fields by their vacuum expectation values $\sigma_N \rightarrow \sigma_N + \phi_N$ and $\sigma_S \rightarrow \sigma_S + \phi_S$, where ϕ_N and ϕ_S are the corresponding chiral condensates. In order to be consistent with the full effective chiral Lagrangian of the extended Linear Sigma Model [9, 16, 17] we have to consider the shift of the axial-vector fields and thus to redefine the wave function of the pseudoscalar fields

$$\vec{\pi} \rightarrow Z_\pi \vec{\pi} \,, \; K \rightarrow Z_K K \,, \; \eta_{N,S} \rightarrow Z_{\eta_{N,S}} \eta_{N,S} \,, \tag{2.7}$$

where Z_i are the renormalization constants of the corresponding wave functions [9].

3. Results

From the effective chiral Lagrangian (2.1) with the unknown coupling constant $c_{\tilde{G}\Phi}$ we calculated the two- and three-body decays of the pseudoscalar glueball $\tilde{G}$. We present the decay widths as branching ratios in order to obtain parameter free results as predictions for the future PANDA experiment at the FAIR facility. For our calculations we fixed the mass of the pseudoscalar glueball to $M_{\tilde{G}} = 2.6$ GeV. This value is obtained by studying of the pure Yang-Mills sector on lattice QCD [2]. Due to the mixing in the scalar-isoscalar channel we evaluated explicitly the decays of the pseudoscalar glueball $\tilde{G}$ into η and η' and one of the scalar-isoscalar resonances $f_0(1370), f_0(1500)$ or $f_0(1710)$. We used for the transformation matrix B in Eq. (2.6) the solution (1) and (2) of Ref. [7]:

$$B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.86 & 0.45 & 0.24 \\ -0.45 & 0.89 & -0.06 \\ -0.24 & -0.06 & 0.97 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{3.1}$$

$$B_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.81 & 0.54 & 0.19 \\ -0.49 & 0.49 & 0.72 \\ 0.30 & -0.68 & 0.67 \end{pmatrix} \tag{3.2}$$

and the solution of Ref. [13]:

$$B_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0.78 & -0.36 & 0.51 \\ -0.54 & 0.03 & 0.84 \\ 0.32 & 0.93 & 0.18 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{3.3}$$

In the solution 1 of Ref. [7] the resonance $f_0(1370)$ is predominantly $\bar{n}n$ state, the resonance $f_0(1500)$ is predominantly a glueball, and $f_0(1710)$ is predominantly a strange $\bar{s}s$ state. In the solution 2 of Ref. [7] and in the solution of Ref. [13] the resonance $f_0(1370)$ is still predominantly nonstrange $\bar{n}n$ state, but $f_0(1710)$ is now predominantly a glueball, and $f_0(1500)$ predominantly a strange $\bar{s}s$ state.

In Table 1 we present our results for the decay channels $\tilde{G} \to PPP$ and in Table 2 and 3 we show the results for the decay channels $\tilde{G} \to PS$, whereby in Table 3 the bare scalar-isoscalar states are substituted by the physical ones [3, 4, 5]. $\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot} = \Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to PPP} + \Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to PS}$ is the total decay width. In Table 2 the decays $\tilde{G} \to \eta \sigma_S$ and $\tilde{G} \to \eta' \sigma_S$ correspond to the assignment $\sigma_S \equiv f_0(1710)$ and to $\sigma_S \equiv f_0(1500)$ (values in the brackets). Finally, in Table 3 we present results in the scalar-isoscalar sector where the mixing matrices (3.1), (3.2), and (3.3) are taken into account.

The largest contribution to the total decay width is given by the following decay channels: $KK\pi$, which contributes to almost 50%, as well as $\eta\pi\pi$ and $\eta'\pi\pi$, where each one contributes of about 10%. The substitution of the bare scalar-isoscalar states through the resonances $f_0(1370)$, $f_0(1500)$ and $f_0(1710)$ did not affect the several decay channels. The contribution of the pseudoscalar glueball decay into the scalars-isoscalars is still about 5% independently on the mixing scenario. A further interesting outcome of our approach is that the decay of the pseudoscalar glueball into three pions, $\tilde{G} \to \pi\pi\pi$, is not allowed.

Quantity	Value
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to KK\eta}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.049
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to KK\eta'}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.019
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta\eta\eta}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.016
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta\eta\eta'}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.0017
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta\eta'\eta'}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.00013
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to KK\pi}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.47
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta\pi\pi}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.16
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta'\pi\pi}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.095

Table 1: Branching ratios for the decay of the pseudoscalar glueball with the mass of $M_{\tilde{G}} = 2.6$ GeV into three pseudoscalar mesons: $\tilde{G} \to PPP$.

Quantity	Value
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to KK_S}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.060
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \pi a_0}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.083
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta \sigma_N}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.0000026
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta' \sigma_N}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.039
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta \sigma_S}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.012 (0.015)
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta' \sigma_S}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0 (0.0082)

Table 2: Branching ratios for the decay of the pseudoscalar glueball with the mass of $M_{\tilde{G}} = 2.6$ GeV into a pseudoscalar and a scalar meson: $\tilde{G} \to PS$. In the last two rows σ_S is assigned to $f_0(1710)$ or to $f_0(1500)$ (values in the brackets)

Quantity	Sol. 1 of Ref [7]	Sol. 2 of Ref [7]	Sol. of Ref [13]
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta f_0(1370)}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.00093	0.00058	0.0044
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta f_0(1500)}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.000046	0.0082	0.011
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta f_0(1710)}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.011	0.0053	0.00037
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta' f_0(1370)}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.038	0.033	0.043
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta' f_0(1500)}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0.0062	0.00020	0.00013
$\Gamma_{\tilde{G} \to \eta' f_0(1710)}/\Gamma_{\tilde{G}}^{tot}$	0	0	0

Table 3: Branching ratios for the decays of the pseudoscalar glueball $\tilde{G}$ into η and η', respectively and one of the scalar-isoscalar states: $f_0(1370), f_0(1500)$ and $f_0(1710)$ by using three different mixing scenarios of these scalar-isoscalar states [7, 13]. The mass of the pseudoscalar glueball is $M_{\tilde{G}} = 2.6$ GeV.

4. Conclusions

We have presented a chirally invariant three-flavour effective Lagrangian with scalar and pseudoscalar quark-antiquark states and a pseudoscalar glueball. We have calculated two- and three-body decay processes of the pseudoscalar glueball with a mass of 2.6 GeV, as evaluated by lattice QCD. It turns out that our results depend only slightly on the scalar-isoscalar mixing. We predict that the decay channel $\tilde{G} \to KK\pi$ is the largest one and $\tilde{G} \to \eta\pi\pi$ as well as $\tilde{G} \to \eta'\pi\pi$ are the next dominant ones [3, 4]. Moreover, the decay channel $\tilde{G} \to \pi\pi\pi$ is not allowed.

The results presented in this work can be tested in the upcoming PANDA experiment at the FAIR facility [10].

Acknowledgments

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